

**HR 23 - AS INTRODUCED**

2026 SESSION

26-2598

05/06

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**23**

A RESOLUTION affirming the importance of digital literacy and access for older Americans.

SPONSORS: Rep. Miller, Straf. 21; Rep. Bridle, Rock. 29; Rep. Colby, Merr. 9; Rep. Mandelbaum, Rock. 21

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This resolution affirms the importance of digital literacy and access for older Americans and encourages the continuation and expansion of programs designed to address the technology needs of seniors.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

A RESOLUTION affirming the importance of digital literacy and access for older Americans.

1       Whereas, the ability to use digital devices and the Internet has become essential for accessing  
2 health care, public services, financial services, and social connection in modern American life; and

3       Whereas, tens of millions of older Americans face a “digital divide,” with recent surveys showing  
4 that about 25 percent of seniors, ages 65 and older, did not use the Internet as of 2021 and around 42  
5 percent lacked broadband access at home as of 2020, resulting in reduced access to vital resources;  
6 and

7       Whereas, older adults without digital access or skills are disproportionately affected by isolation  
8 and have difficulty accessing telehealth and other remote services, while those with digital support  
9 were better able to maintain health and social ties; and

10       Whereas, digital literacy training programs for older adults - including community-based  
11 workshops, intergenerational mentoring programs like TechPals and Cyber-Seniors, and library and  
12 senior center initiatives - have demonstrated success in increasing seniors’ technology adoption and  
13 confidence, thereby improving their quality of life and independence; and

14       Whereas, improving digital skills among older Americans can help protect them from  
15 cybercrime, given that in 2023 alone, Americans over 60 suffered an estimated \$3.4 billion in losses  
16 to Internet fraud, and education on online safety can significantly reduce susceptibility to scams  
17 targeting seniors; and

18       Whereas, existing federal efforts such as the Digital Equity Act’s state grants, the Affordable  
19 Connectivity Program, and programs under the Older Americans Act provide a foundation but lack  
20 dedicated, coordinated focus on older adult digital inclusion, leaving significant gaps in outreach,  
21 training, and support; and

22       Whereas, bipartisan federal legislation of 2021 recognized the importance of digital equity and  
23 included older Americans as a covered population, and it is the sense of Congress that further action  
24 is needed to fulfill the promise of digital equity for seniors; now, therefore, be it

25       Resolved by the House of Representatives:

26       I. That the New Hampshire house of representatives:

27               (a) Affirms that promoting digital literacy and inclusion for older adults is a national  
28 priority critical to seniors’ health, well-being, and civic engagement, and is in the public interest;

29               (b) Supports the development of a comprehensive strategy to close the digital divide for  
30 seniors, which may include expanding affordable Internet access, providing devices, and funding  
31 community-based digital literacy training programs tailored to older adults;

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1 (c) Encourages state agencies, in partnership local stakeholders, to use existing  
2 programs and infrastructure to coordinate and scale up senior-focused digital literacy initiatives,  
3 ensuring that resources reach senior centers, libraries, adult education programs, and nonprofit  
4 organizations working with older populations;

5 (d) Recommends the establishment of grant programs and pilot projects, through the  
6 department of health and human services bureau of adult and aging care services or other relevant  
7 agencies, to support innovative models of senior digital training, including intergenerational  
8 volunteer tech support, “digital navigator” services supporting older adults, and collaborations with  
9 public libraries and community colleges, with an emphasis on measurable outcomes and sharing of  
10 best practices;

11 (e) Urges the continuation and adequate funding of broadband affordability programs,  
12 including the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program, and outreach efforts to increase enrollment  
13 by eligible low-income older adults, and to couple these efforts with training so that having Internet  
14 access translates into meaningful Internet use;

15 (f) Calls upon public and private sector entities to form partnerships to address the  
16 technology needs of seniors, including device refurbishment and donation programs, for example,  
17 providing simplified tablets or laptops to seniors, corporate volunteerism to expand the pool of  
18 trainers and mentors, and integration of digital skills support into health care, banking, and other  
19 services frequently used by older Americans; and

20 (g) Commits to monitor progress in reducing the digital divide among older adults,  
21 including Internet usage, digital skill levels, and program outcomes for seniors, so that future  
22 legislative or funding needs in this domain are well-informed.

23 II. That a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted by the house clerk to the President of  
24 the United States; the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation; and the Honorable  
25 Kelly Ayotte, governor, state of New Hampshire, as well as stakeholder organizations, such as AARP  
26 and the American Library Association, in order to enlist their support and collaborative action in  
27 achieving digital equity for older Americans.